

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:  
a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode;  
an absorbent sheet disposed in an oxidant path and sandwiched between the oxidant electrode and ~~an outer wall of the oxidant path~~ a separator plate; and

an absorbent moving part disposed in the oxidant path and sandwiched between the oxidant electrode and the separator plate,  
the absorbent moving part movably supporting the absorbent sheet in a direction such that the absorbent sheet approaches to and departs from a vicinity of the oxidant electrode.

2. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbent moving part moves the absorbent sheet between a position where at least part of the absorbent sheet is in contact with the oxidant electrode and another position where said at least part of the absorbent sheet is departed from the oxidant electrode.

3. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbent moving part supports the absorbent

sheet such that the absorbent sheet is disposed opposing to the oxidant electrode surface when the absorbent sheet is moved in a direction approaching to the oxidant electrode.

4. (currently amended) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising [[an]] the oxidant path being on the oxidant electrode's surface in which the absorbent sheet is disposed.

5. (original) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a discharge promoting section for promoting discharge of the oxidant in the oxidant path.

6. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a humidity measuring section for measuring humidity in the oxidant path, wherein the absorbent moving part moves the absorbent sheet in accordance with the humidity measured by the humidity measuring section.

7. (original) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a switching mechanism for switching closing or opening of the oxidant path.

8. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a drying section for drying the absorbent sheet.

9. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a temperature measuring section for measuring a temperature in the oxidant path, wherein the absorbent moving part moves the absorbent sheet in accordance with the temperature measured by the temperature measuring section.

10. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a temperature measuring section for measuring a temperature;

a detecting section for detecting an output of the fuel cell;

a memory section for storing a reference value of the output determined in accordance with the temperature; and

a judging section for comparing the output detected by the detecting section with the reference value stored in the memory section to judge whether or not the output reaches the reference value based on the temperature measured by the temperature measuring section,

wherein the absorbent moving part moves the absorbent sheet in a direction such that the absorbent sheet approaches to the oxidant electrode, if the output has not reached the reference value.

11. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a detecting section for detecting an output of the fuel cell;

an alarm output section; and

a control section for instructing the detecting section to detect the output of the fuel cell after the absorbent sheet is moved by the absorbent moving part in a direction the absorbent sheet approaches to the oxidant electrode, and for instructing the alarm output section to output the alarm if the output of the fuel cell is has not been improved.

12. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbent moving part moves or stops the absorbent sheet in accordance with an operation or an operation stop, respectively.

13. (original) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fuel cell is a direct type in which liquid fuel is directly supplied to the fuel electrode.

14. (original) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of the oxidant electrodes are disposed on a plane.

15-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbent sheet is formed from material capable of releasing the absorbed moisture, the material being selected from the group consisting of polyester, regenerated cellulose, polyamide, fluorine resin, polyethylene, polypropylene, polycarbonate, polyimide, polysulfone, polysulfide, polybenzimidazole and cotton fibers.

23. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbent sheet is a thin fabric sheet adhered to a surface of a support plate.

24. (currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:  
a fuel electrode;  
an oxidant electrode disposed opposing to the fuel electrode;

an absorbent sheet disposed in an oxidant path and sandwiched between the oxidant electrode and ~~an outer wall of the oxidant path~~ a separator plate;

an absorbent moving part disposed in the oxidant path and sandwiched between the oxidant electrode and the separator plate, the absorbent moving part movably supporting the absorbent sheet in a direction such that the absorbent sheet approaches to and departs from a vicinity of the oxidant electrode, and the absorbent moving part supports the absorbent sheet such that the absorbent sheet is disposed opposing a surface of the oxidant electrode when the absorbent sheet is moved in a direction approaching the oxidant electrode.

25. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 24, wherein the absorbent sheet is formed from material capable of releasing the absorbed moisture, the material being selected from the group consisting of polyester, regenerated cellulose, polyamide, fluorine resin, polyethylene, polypropylene, polycarbonate, polyimide, polysulfone, polysulfide, polybenzimidazole and cotton fibers.

26. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 24, wherein the absorbent sheet is a thin fabric sheet adhered to a surface of a support plate.

27. (currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:

a fuel electrode and an oxidant electrode;

an absorbent sheet disposed in an oxidant path and sandwiched between the oxidant electrode and ~~an outer wall of the oxidant path~~ a separator plate; and

an absorbent moving part disposed in the oxidant path and sandwiched between the oxidant electrode and the separator plate, the absorbent moving part movably supporting the absorbent sheet,

wherein the absorbent moving part moves the absorbent sheet between a position where at least part of the absorbent sheet is in contact with the oxidant electrode and another position where said at least part of the absorbent sheet is departed from the oxidant electrode.

28. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 27, wherein the absorbent sheet is formed from material capable of releasing the absorbed moisture, the material being selected from the group consisting of polyester, regenerated cellulose, polyamide, fluorine resin, polyethylene, polypropylene, polycarbonate, polyimide, polysulfone, polysulfide, polybenzimidazole and cotton fibers.

29. (previously presented) The fuel cell as claimed in claim 27, wherein the absorbent sheet is a thin fabric sheet adhered to a surface of a support plate.